



# Tennessee Crop Weather

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 1, 2011

## SEVERE STORMS BRING HEAVY RAIN, HALT PLANTING EFFORTS

Damaging storms dumped record-level precipitation in areas and kept farmers out of fields for most of the week, wrapping up a significantly wetter-than-normal April in Tennessee. Farmers in several counties were faced with tornados, flooding, power outages, and livestock losses. Some corn and wheat acreage remained underwater or in saturated soil at week’s end, particularly in West Tennessee. Wet weather and soaked fields have delayed corn, cotton and soybean planting along with wheat fungicide applications and hay cutting. Producers were reported to have mostly adequate hay stocks. The wheat crop continued to progress and by week’s end, two-thirds of the crop had reached the headed stage.

There was a statewide average of 2 days suitable for fieldwork across the state last week. Topsoil moisture levels were rated 37 percent adequate, and 63 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 45 percent adequate, and 55 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 2 to 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation levels were above normal across the state, with West Tennessee receiving 7 inches of rainfall in excess of normal.

CROP PROGRESS					CONDITION					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Apples – Blooming or Beyond	89	83	89	93	Apples	0	1	16	72	11
Corn – Planted	38	34	85	77	Cattle	0	3	16	65	16
Corn – Emerged	23	16	58	45	Hay	1	4	23	59	13
Cotton – Planted	2	0	7	8	Pastures	0	4	21	60	15
Winter Wheat – Jointed	97	94	92	97	Strawberries	0	2	14	71	13
Winter Wheat – Headed	67	35	32	57	Winter Wheat	0	3	13	57	27

n/a = not available

### County Agent Comments

*“All row crop activities have come to a complete stop this week. By the time crest at Caruthersville occurs assuming current conditions continue, an estimated 100,000 land acres will be affected by flood waters. Fortunately, only an estimated 1200-1500 acres of corn will be affected and an estimated 4000-6000 acres of wheat will be affected. Fortunately, no cotton has been planted. A late planted bean crop is expected this year for the Mississippi River bottoms.”*  
**Tim Campbell, Dyer County**

*“Rainfall from numerous storms has the ground saturated. Virtually no fields have been planted in the last 2 weeks due to rainfall patterns. Little fungicide was applied to wheat as weather conditions limited the use of airplanes. Some fields are now under water as creeks and rivers are full and backing out of their banks.”*  
**Richard Buntin, Crockett County**

*“For the second week in a row, straight-line winds exceeding 80 miles per hour laid siege to Weakley County, damaging buildings, homes, tool sheds and trees. Many residents are still without electrical power. Heavy rains fell this week with most locations reporting 5-6 inches of precipitation. River flooding will delay this late planting season even further.”*  
**Jeff Lannom, Weakley County**

*“Heavy rains and storms during the week have brought field work to a halt. Some flooding and wind damage from the mid week storms. Farmers are behind schedule in corn planting and first hay cutting.”*  
**Calvin Bryant, Lawrence County**

*“Another week with multiple rain days. Big rain Wednesday caused some ponding in low fields planted in corn. Some corn planted, some wheat sprayed. Wet weather is rough on strawberries, vegetables, etc. Wheat is ready to cut for hay this week. Need week of dry weather.”*  
**J. Dale Beaty, Warren County**

*“Planting and other activities have come to a standstill as the county recovers from 4 tornadoes that struck on Wednesday. Several poultry houses and hay barns have been completely destroyed as well as cattle lost. 285 homes were completely destroyed. Many parts of the county are still without electricity. It may be a few days before totals are in.”*  
**Kim Frady, Bradley County**

*“Severe storms replenished topsoil moisture this week. The Northeast TN area had been dry prior to rainfall this week.”*  
**Chris Ramsey, Sullivan County**

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION  
For week ending: May 1, 2011 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION					
	Week Ending May 1, 2011				Current Week 5/1/11	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal January 1	Current Since April 1	Departure From Normal April 1
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						
West										
Ames_Plantation	85	45	66	2	7.72	5	26.16	6.52	13.64	7.77
Brownsville_TN	84	47	66	2	9.18	5	25.63	6.26	13.05	7.48
Covington	83	45	65	2	8.91	5	25.20	5.82	13.18	7.48
Dyersburg	80	47	66	1	5.63	5	23.52	5.85	10.35	5.50
Huntingdon_Wate	83	47	66	4	7.74	5	27.18	8.57	12.87	8.02
Jackson_Exp_Stn	85	47	67	5	9.32	5	24.85	6.29	13.01	7.73
Lexington_TN	82	45	65	4	6.99	5	23.40	5.43	11.87	7.09
Martin	81	46	65	4	6.32	5	28.09	9.65	11.64	6.44
Memphis_AG	85	46	67	1	9.53	5	25.51	6.38	13.89	8.25
Milan	84	45	66	4	8.37	5	25.93	7.16	11.98	6.83
Paris	80	46	65	4	7.23	6	29.40	10.86	13.41	8.38
Savannah_6SW	84	45	67	2	7.49	6	26.92	5.85	12.38	6.77
Selmer	85	45	67	5	7.68	5	25.67	4.82	13.34	7.73
Union_City	80	45	64	3	5.76	5	25.60	7.45	10.43	5.46
Middle										
Clarksville_Sew	79	46	64	3	5.91	6	26.52	8.27	12.03	7.43
Cookeville	85	43	64	5	4.73	4	28.12	8.26	11.65	6.82
Crossville_AP	80	43	64	6	1.99	3	22.45	2.45	7.80	2.82
Dickson_AG	81	42	64	2	6.59	4	26.18	6.97	11.01	5.81
Dover_1W	79	46	64	4	7.11	5	31.82	12.84	15.23	10.15
Fayetteville_TN	83	46	66	6	3.67	4	26.03	5.92	9.35	4.52
Jamestown	85	41	62	4	2.90	4	27.27	8.82	9.62	5.01
Kingston_Spring	83	46	65	5	4.11	5	21.50	2.87	8.41	3.75
Lawrenceburg_Fl	81	47	65	5	5.83	4	24.06	3.37	11.05	6.18
Lewisburg	84	45	64	4	5.39	3	26.51	7.09	11.25	6.41
Linden	81	47	65	4	6.62	4	24.96	4.93	12.12	7.08
Livingston_WLIV	85	44	64	4	4.91	6	30.75	12.73	11.66	7.16
Murfreesboro_5N	83	45	65	4	4.29	4	23.23	4.81	9.25	4.61
Nashville_Metro	83	49	66	4	3.06	5	20.27	3.50	7.82	3.29
Oneida	82	44	63	6	3.60	5	29.38	10.87	10.55	5.91
Portland_TN	78	42	63	3	5.67	6	26.69	8.87	10.65	6.13
Pulaski_Water_P	80	46	64	1	5.20	3	26.65	6.63	11.86	7.23
Shelbyville	83	45	66	4	4.85	5	26.78	7.15	10.41	5.66
Sparta_TN	87	43	64	5	3.74	5	25.43	6.10	9.75	4.99
Springfield	80	45	64	4	6.88	5	25.69	8.36	11.42	6.96
Springhill	81	47	64	5	4.64	4	21.99	2.11	9.63	4.36
Tullahoma	82	44	64	3	3.29	3	22.90	1.86	8.87	3.80
East										
Chattanooga/Lov	85	48	68	7	1.56	2	27.23	7.05	8.84	4.39
Cleveland_6NNE	84	47	66	6	2.45	2	21.37	1.28	6.94	2.41
Dayton	84	44	65	4	3.13	3	26.07	5.33	9.37	4.65
Erwin_1W	86	40	65	9	0.61	1	18.16	2.50	6.65	2.50
Gatlinburg_2SW	88	41	66	9	0.72	2	21.77	3.35	7.32	2.84
Greeneville	85	42	65	7	1.60	2	15.40	1.19	4.78	1.26
Kingston_AG	84	44	65	6	3.08	2	25.48	4.74	9.03	4.37
Knoxville_AP	86	46	69	9	4.12	3	23.07	5.91	9.11	5.27
Newcomb	85	40	63	7	2.52	5	23.11	4.60	8.60	3.96
Norris_4NE	83	37	62	4	2.24	4	24.22	5.94	7.67	3.28
Tri-City_RGNL_A	85	41	66	8	1.31	2	17.35	3.56	4.60	1.18

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Rain Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more during the week. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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